

**UTILITY
PATENT APPLICATION
TRANSMITTAL**

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. 2000-0345

Total Pages :1

First Named Inventor or Application Identifier

Hiroyuki FUJIMURA et al.

Express Mail Label No.:

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

1. ☒ Fee Transmittal Form
(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☒ Specification [Total Pages -33]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
- Descriptive title of the Invention
 - Cross References to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to Microfiche Appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
3. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) [Total sheets -4]
4. ☒ Oath or Declaration [Total Pages - 4]
- a.1. ☐ Newly executed (original or copy)
 - a.2. ☐ Unexecuted
 - b. ☒ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)
[Note Box 5 below]
 - i. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s)
named in the prior application, see 37 CFR
1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5. ☒ Incorporation By Reference
(usable if Box 4b is checked)
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which
a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box
4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the
accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by
reference therein.

6. Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
7. ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
(if applicable, all necessary)
- a. ☐ Computer Readable Copy
 - b. ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
 - c. ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

8. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
9. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement ☐ Power of Attorney
(when there is an assignee)
10. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
11. ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449
☐ Copies of IDS Citations
12. ☒ Preliminary Amendment
13. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
14. ☐ Small Entity Statement(s)
☐ Statement filed in prior application, Status still proper and desired
15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
(if foreign priority is claimed)
16. ☒ Other Priority Claim

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:
☐ Continuation ☒ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior Application No. 09/234,634 which is a Continuation of
08/757,452, now U.S. Patent No. 5,900,224

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March 21, 2000

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
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ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :
Hiroyuki FUJIMURA et al. :
Serial No. NEW : **Attn: Application Branch**
Filed March 21, 2000 : **Attorney Docket No. 2000-0345**

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
TREATING WASTES BY GASIFICATION
Rule 1.53(b) Divisional
of Serial No. 09/234,634,
Filed January 21, 1999

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Kindly amend the above application as follows:

IN THE TITLE

Please change the title of the invention to --APPARATUS FOR TRADING WASTES BY GASIFICATION--.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, line 1, after the title insert --The present application is a Division of application Serial No. 09/234,634 filed January 21, 1999, that is a Continuation of application Serial No. 08/757,452 filed November 27, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,900,224.--;
line 14, change "industry" --industries--;

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line 15, change "which" to --and--; change "material" to --for use in
production--;

line 17, change "The Ammonia" to --Ammonia--;

line 21, change "gasification of hydrocarbon" to --gasification, of
hydrocarbons--; and

line 26, after "reduce" insert --the--.

Page 2, line 1, delete "," (first occurrence);
line 6, change "have longed for" to --has long been a need for a way of--;
line 7, change "in our own country" to --locally--;
line 12, change "in" to --with--;
line 18, after "become" insert --more--;
line 22, change "the" to --such--; delete "," (second occurrence);
line 23, delete "the"; and
line 25, delete "the" (first occurrence).

Page 3, line 1, delete "the";
line 7, change "in" to --of the--;
line 9, change "as" to --for--;
line 10, delete "gas"; and
line 12, delete "a".

Page 4, line 12, before "gasifying" insert --a--;
line 17, before "temperature" insert --the--; and
line 26, change "a" to --by--.

Page 5, line 3, delete "at"; and
line 4, delete "the" (first occurrence).

Page 6, line 15, change "slurring" to --slurrying--;
line 23, change "plant" to --plants--; and
line 25, change "husk" to --husks--.

Page 7, line 5, change "wastes" (both occurrences) to --waste--;
line 7, change "reactor," to --reactor and--;
line 20, after "cake" insert --form--; and
line 28, change "the" to --their--.

Page 8, line 1, change "calorie of their own" to --calorific values--; change
"content" to --contents--;
line 3, delete "the" (third occurrence);
line 4, change "belong to the" to --are--;
line 7, change "belong to the" to --are--; and
line 17, change "a kind" to --the type--.

Page 9, line 4, change "calorie" to --calorific value--;
line 15, delete ", differently to the prior art"; and
line 28, after "reactor," insert --the--.

Page 11, line 11, change "medium" to --media--;
line 12, change "collides" to --collide--;
line 17, before "descending" insert --the--; delete "the" (second
occurrence);
line 18, change "crashed" to --crushed--; and

line 20, delete "a".

Page 12, line 8, change "in" to --with--.

Page 15, line 9, change "component" to --components--;

line 12, before "reaction" insert --the--;

line 15, after "and" insert --the--;

line 17, delete "the";

line 18, after "if" insert --the--; and

line 19, after "less," insert --the--.

Page 16, line 13, change "of" to --for--.

Page 17, line 18, change "calorie" to --calorific value--;

line 19, change "calorie" to --calorific value--;

line 22, change "component" to --components--; and

line 24, change "industry" to --industries--.

Page 18, line 1, change "precursor" to --precursors--;

line 4, change "as" to --for--;

line 5, change "for" to --in--; change "industry" to --industries--;

line 9, delete "a";

line 18, change "gas as synthesis gas" to --gas as is as synthesis gas for
synthesis--;

line 19, delete "as they are";

line 22, after "gas" insert --for synthesis--;

line 23, delete "to ensure the amount of waste and to make the quality";

line 24, delete "of the wastes stable. Further it is necessary"; and

line 25, change "change" to --changes--.

Page 19, line 1, after "or" insert --when--;
line 2, change "calorie" to --calorific value--;
line 10, after "of" (first occurrence) insert --the--; change "a supply rate" to --the rate of supply--;
line 11, after "Incidentally," insert --the--;
line 12, change "coal which belongs to the wastes but" to --coal, which rather is comparable to the wastes, but is--; and
line 27, change "8" to --11--.

Page 20, line 1, after "a," insert --b,--.

Page 21, line 21, after "temperature" insert --of--.

Page 22, line 27, delete "which"; and
line 28, delete "is provided".

Page 27, line 7, delete "step 100";
line 8, change "of gasification" to --gasification step 100--;
line 9, after "heated" insert --to a temperature suitable for carbon monoxide conversion--; delete "the";
line 10, delete "to a temperature suitable";
line 11, delete "for the carbon monoxide conversion";
line 12, after "then" insert --is--; and
line 14, change "present of" to --presence of a--.

Page 28, line 1, after "is" insert --an--;

line 3, delete "the" (first occurrence);
 line 6, change "furthermore" to --further--;
 line 10, after "then" insert --is--; delete "the";
 line 17, delete "step 200 of"; after "conversion" insert --step 200--;
 line 20, after "contacted" insert --countercurrently--; after "60°C" insert

--.--;

line 21, delete "countercurrently."
 line 22, change "contains" to --has a--;
 line 23, after "and" insert --a--; and
 line 28, change "coolant of ammonia" to --ammonia as a coolant--.

and

Page 29, line 2, change "Small" to --A small--; change "Hydrogen" to --hydrogen--;
 line 19, after "After" insert --being--.

Page 30, line 21, after "heated" insert --by passing again--; delete "again".

Page 32, line 9, change "available in our own" to --readily available--;
 line 10, change "country. Thus," to --locally. Thus, the--;
 line 14, change "precursor" to --precursors--;
 line 25, change "in" to --with--; and
 line 26, delete "of".

and

Page 33, line 1, change "against" to --to counteract--;
 line 2, change "property" to --properties--; after "increasing" insert --the--;
 line 7, change "therein" to --thereto--.

REMARKS

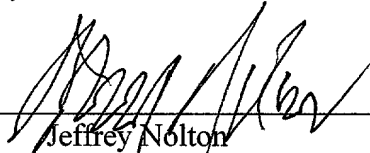
The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to provide the required reference, at the beginning of the specification, to the parent and grandparent applications. Furthermore, the present Preliminary Amendment revises the specification in accordance with the revisions made in the parent application and grandparent application.

Attention is directed to the fact that the present application is directed to the apparatus, and apparatus claims were restricted out of grandparent application Serial No. 08/757,452.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiroyuki FUJIMURA et al.

By



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March 21, 2000

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TREATING WASTES BY GASIFICATION

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention:

5 The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for treating wastes by gasification, and more particularly to a method and apparatus for treating wastes by gasification at a relatively low temperature and then at a relatively high temperature to recover metals or ash content in the wastes in
10 such a state that they can be recycled, and gases containing carbon monoxide (CO) and hydrogen (H₂) for use as synthesis gas of ammonia (NH₃).

Description of the Prior Art:

15 Ammonia (NH₃) is a basic material for chemical industry which is mass-produced material of nitric acid, various fertilizers; including ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulfate and urea; acrylonitrile, caprolactam or the like. The ammonia is synthesized from nitrogen (N₂) and hydrogen (H₂) under a high pressure in the presence of a catalyst. Hydrogen (H₂) has been
20 produced by either steam reforming of natural gas or naphtha, or partial combustion, i.e. gasification of hydrocarbon such as petroleum, coal or petroleum coke.

25 It has heretofore been customary to treat organic wastes including municipal wastes, plastic wastes including fiber-reinforced plastics (FRP), biomass wastes, and automobile wastes by incineration to reduce volume thereof, or to discard the organic wastes in an untreated state in landfill sites.

Therefore, a small quantity of useful resources has been

recovered from the organic wastes, and used for recycling, irrespective of direct or indirect utilization.

Hydrogen which is a material for ammonia (NH_3) is obtained from natural gas, naphtha, petroleum, coal or petroleum coke.

5 Since most of those materials are dependent on importation from abroad, there have longed for procuring materials which are inexpensive and available in our own country.

On the other hand, the incineration of solid wastes has been disadvantageous for the following reasons:

10 A stoker furnace or a fluidized-bed furnace has heretofore been used for the incineration of solid wastes. However, this incineration has been problematic in respect to environmental conservation, or recycling of resources or energy. To be more specific, large quantities of exhaust gas are discharged
15 because of high air ratio, and toxic Dioxins are contained in the exhaust gas. Further, metals which are discharged from the furnace are not suitable for recycling because they are oxidized, and landfill sites become scarce year by year. Recently, the number of waste treatment facilities which
20 incorporate ash-melting equipment is increasing, however, a problem is encountered in construction cost and/or operating cost of the waste treatment facilities. Further, recently, there has been developing a tendency to utilize energy of the solid wastes efficiently.

25 Dumping the solid wastes in an untreated state on the land has become more difficult because of scarcity of landfill sites, and has not been allowable from the viewpoint of environmental conservation. Therefore, there is no site where

the solid wastes such as shredder dust of scrapped cars can be disposed of.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a method and apparatus for treating wastes by gasification which can recover resources in wastes, open up a road to separation and reuse of the resources, produce synthesis gas having desired components for use as synthesis
10 gas of ammonia by partial combustion, solve various problems caused by incineration or dumping of organic wastes, and obtain a low cost hydrogen (H_2) which is used for synthesis of ammonia.

15 In order to achieve the above object, according to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for treating wastes by gasification, comprising the steps, of: gasifying wastes in a fluidized-bed reactor at a relatively low temperature; introducing gaseous material and char produced in the fluidized-bed reactor into a high-temperature combustor;
20 producing synthesis gas in the high-temperature combustor at a relatively high temperature; quenching the synthesis gas produced in the high-temperature combustor; converting CO and H_2O in the synthesis gas into CO_2 and H_2 ; and recovering H_2 by removing CO_2 .

25 According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided an apparatus for treating wastes by gasification, comprising: a fluidized-bed reactor for gasifying wastes at a relatively low temperature to produce gaseous

material and char; a high-temperature combustor for producing synthesis gas at a relatively high temperature; a quenching chamber containing water for quenching the synthesis gas; a convertor for converting CO and H₂O in the synthesis gas into
5 CO₂ and H₂; and an absorber for absorbing CO₂ to recover H₂.

The gasifying steps in the fluidized-bed reactor and the high temperature combustor may be carried out under a pressure ranging from 10 to 40 atm. The recovered H₂ may be used for producing ammonia.

10 The method may comprise the step of separating air into oxygen and nitrogen, the separated oxygen being used for gasifying agent in the fluidized-bed reactor and the high-temperature combustor, and the separated nitrogen being used for producing ammonia.

15 The relatively low temperature in a fluidized-bed of the fluidized-bed reactor may be in the range of 450 to 650°C, and temperature in a freeboard of the fluidized-bed reactor may be in the range of 600 to 800°C.

The relatively high temperature in the high-temperature
20 combustor may be 1300°C or higher.

In the gasification process, a mixture of oxygen obtained by separation of air and steam is used as a gasifying agent for producing hydrogen. Nitrogen obtained by separation of air is used for synthesis of ammonia (NH₃). The separation of air
25 into oxygen and nitrogen is carried out by a low-temperature separation method (PSA), an adsorption method (TSA) or a membrane separation. By using oxygen enriched air as a gasifying agent, a mixture of hydrogen (H₂) and nitrogen (N₂)

with a ratio of 3 : 1 can be generated, and the generated gas can be used for synthesis of ammonia (NH_3).

The apparatus may further comprise a scrubber provided at the downstream of the quenching chamber for removing dust and toxic gas such as HCl in the generated gas, a CO convertor for converting CO and H_2O in the generated gas into H_2 and CO_2 , an acid gas removing device for removing CO_2 and H_2O after the CO shift conversion, and a reactor for reacting the refined H_2 with the refined N_2 to synthesize NH_3 .

Further, it is desirable that the apparatus further comprises a separator for separating air into N_2 and O_2 , means for introducing the separated N_2 into the reactor for synthesizing ammonia (NH_3), and means for introducing the separated O_2 into the fluidized-bed reactor and/or the high-temperature combustor.

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings which illustrate preferred embodiments of the present invention by way of example.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of an apparatus for carrying out the treating method according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram of an apparatus for carrying out the treating method according to a second embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a flow diagram showing a process for synthesizing ammonia (NH_3) from the wastes according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 4 is a graph showing characteristics of pyrolysis in a nitrogen atmosphere of RDF.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

A method and apparatus for treating wastes by gasification according to the present invention will be described below with reference to drawings.

Wastes which are used in the present invention may be municipal wastes, biomass wastes, plastic wastes including fiber-reinforced plastics (FRP), automobile wastes, low-grade coal, waste oil, and alternative fuels which are produced by solidifying or slurring the above wastes.

The alternative fuels include refuse-derived fuel (RDF) which is produced by pulverizing and classifying municipal wastes, adding quicklime to the classified municipal wastes, and compacting them to shape, and solid-water mixture which is produced by crushing municipal wastes, converting them into a slurry with water, and converting it into an oily fuel by hydrothermal reaction. The biomass wastes include wastes generated from water supply or sewage plant (admixture, remnant, sewage sludges, or the like), agricultural wastes (rice husk, rice straw, surplus products, or the like), forestry wastes (sawdust, bark, lumber from thinning, or the like), industrial wastes (pulp-chip dust, or the like), and scrap wood from construction. The low-quality coal includes

peat which has low degrees of coalification, or coal refuse which is produced upon coal dressing.

The present invention is also applicable to organic materials including oil shale, garbage, carcasses of beasts, wastes clothing, wastes paper, and any other material. ,

These wastes are first supplied into a fluidized-bed reactor, pyrolyzed therein. Particularly, by employing a revolving-type fluidized-bed reactor as the reactor, the wastes which have been coarsely crushed by pretreatment can be supplied to the fluidized-bed reactor. The reason is that by a vigorous revolving flow of the fluidized medium, good heat transfer to the supplied wastes can be obtained, and large-sized incombustibles can be discharged from the fluidized-bed furnace. The effects of the revolving flow of the fluidized medium will be described later in detail.

Therefore, among these wastes, the municipal wastes, the biomass wastes, the plastic wastes, and the automobile wastes are roughly crushed to a size of about 30 cm. The sewage sludges and night soil which have a high moisture content are dehydrated into a cake by a centrifugal separator or the like in dedicated treatment facilities, and then the dehydrated cake is transported to a plant site which has a treating system of the present invention. The refuse-derived fuel, the solid water mixture, and the highly concentrated wastewater are used as they are. Coal added for calorie adjustment may be used as it is, if it is crushed to a size of 40 mm or less.

The above wastes may be roughly grouped into high calorific wastes and low calorific wastes according to the

calorie of their own and their moisture content. Generally, the municipal wastes, the refuse-derived fuel, the solid water mixture, the plastic wastes, the automobile wastes, and the electric appliance wastes belong to the high calorific wastes.

5 The biomass wastes, the special wastes such as medical wastes, the dehydrated cake of sewage sludges and night soil, and the highly concentrated waste liquids belong to the low calorific wastes.

These wastes are charged into a high calorific waste pit, a low calorific waste pit, and a tank, and sufficiently stirred and mixed in the pits and the tank. Thereafter, they are supplied to the fluidized-bed reactor. Metals contained in the wastes which are supplied to the fluidized-bed reactor are recovered in a non-corroded condition if their melting points are higher than the fluidized-bed temperature in the fluidized-bed reactor. Therefore, these recovered metals can be used as ingot metal in accordance with a kind of metal.

If the wastes supplied to the fluidized-bed reactor have a constant quality, then the ratio of the wastes to the gas supplied to the fluidized-bed reactor for gasification is also constant. However, if the proportion of the low calorific wastes in the supplied wastes increases or the overall moisture content in the supplied wastes increases, then the temperature of the fluidized-bed tends to go down from a desired value.

25 When the temperature of the fluidized-bed goes down, it is desirable to adjust the proportion of the low calorific wastes to the high calorific wastes in the supplied wastes to keep the calorific value of the supplied wastes constant from the

viewpoint of gas utilization at a later stage. Alternatively, coal with a high calorific value may be added to adjust the calorie of the supplied wastes. Incidentally, oil coke may be added instead of coal to adjust the calorie of the supplied wastes.

Next, a fluidized-bed reactor for gasifying wastes at a relatively low temperature according to the present invention will be described below. Using such a fluidized-bed reactor for gasifying wastes at a relatively low temperature is one of the features of the present invention.

Fluidized-bed reactors themselves are known as combustion or gasification furnaces. However, it is a novel feature of the present invention to use a combination of a fluidized-bed reactor and a high-temperature combustor for producing combustible gases, differently to the prior art.

There is a known technology in which coal is supplied into a high-temperature gasification furnace as pulverized coal or slurried coal with water. However, in case of wastes, it is not easy to pulverize them, compared with coal. Particularly, if the wastes contain incombustibles such as metals, debris, or stones, then it is almost impossible to pulverize the wastes or slurry the wastes. However, in case of using the fluidized-bed reactor, the wastes can be pyrolyzed in a coarsely crushing state to thus generate combustible gaseous materials and fine char. The generated gaseous materials and char are introduced into a subsequent high-temperature combustor in which they are gasified at a relatively high temperature. In the fluidized-bed reactor, only necessary work is to convert the wastes into

combustible gaseous materials and char by a slow reaction of thermal decomposition and gasification, thus the fluidized-bed in the fluidized-bed reactor can be kept at a relatively low temperature. The fluidized-bed reactor which can be used in 5 the present invention may be a known atmospheric or pressurized fluidized-bed reactor including a bubbling-type fluidized-bed furnace, in consideration of characteristics of wastes to be treated. However, it is particularly preferable to use a revolving flow-type fluidized-bed reactor which has been 10 developed by the inventors of the present invention.

The revolving flow-type fluidized-bed reactor preferably has a circular horizontal cross-section, and has a relatively mild fluidized-bed with a substantially low fluidizing gas rate in a central region and a relatively intensive fluidized-bed 15 with a substantially high fluidizing gas rate in a peripheral region. The revolving flow-type fluidized-bed reactor has an inclined wall installed along an inner wall in the vicinity of the surface of the fluidized-bed, for deflecting the flow of the fluidized medium from the peripheral region toward the 20 central region so that a revolving flow of the fluidized medium is formed in such a manner that the fluidized medium descends in the mild fluidized-bed, ascends in the intense fluidized-bed, moves from the central region toward the peripheral region in a lower portion of the fluidized-bed and moves from the 25 peripheral region toward the central region in an upper portion of the fluidized-bed.

The revolving flow-type fluidized-bed reactor having a specific structure according to the present invention offers

the following advantages:

1. Since the produced char is not accumulated on the fluidized-bed and is dispersed well and uniformly in the fluidized-bed, oxidization of char can be effectively carried
5 out in the fluidized-bed, particularly in the intense fluidized-bed. Heat generated by oxidization of char is transferred to the fluidized medium, and the transferred heat can be effectively used as a heat source for thermal decomposition and gasification at a central portion of the
10 fluidized-bed in the fluidized-bed reactor.

2. Since the fluidized medium whose upward flow is deflected by the inclined wall collides with each other at the central portion of the fluidized-bed in the fluidized-bed reactor, char is pulverized. If hard silica sand is used as a
15 fluidized medium, pulverization of char is further accelerated.

3. Since the wastes go down into the fluidized-bed by descending flow of the fluidized medium, the solid wastes which have been coarsely crashed only can be supplied to the fluidized-bed reactor. Therefore, it is possible to dispense
20 with a pulverizing equipment, and electric power for pulverizing can be remarkably reduced.

4. Although large-sized incombustibles are generated due to coarse crushing of the wastes, such large-sized incombustibles can be easily discharged by the revolving flow
25 of the fluidized medium from the fluidized-bed reactor.

5. Since the generated heat is dispersed by the revolving flow of the fluidized medium which is formed in overall regions of the fluidized-bed, trouble caused by generation of

agglomeration or clinker can be avoided.

In case of a bubbling-type fluidized-bed which is generally used, although the fluidized medium can be uniformly fluidized in the fluidized-bed, dispersion of the fluidized medium in horizontal directions is not carried out well. Therefore, the revolving flow-type fluidized-bed reactor of the present invention is superior to the bubbling-type fluidized-bed reactor which is commonly used, in respect to the above advantages 1 through 5.

The fluidized-bed reactor of the present invention has the fluidized-bed whose temperature is in the range of 450 to 800°C. If the fluidized-bed temperature is lower than 450°C, since the reaction of thermally decomposing and gasifying the wastes would be extremely slow, undecomposed substances would be accumulated in the fluidized-bed, and an amount of produced char whose oxidization rate is slow would be increased. If the fluidized-bed temperature increases, the pyrolysis reaction of the wastes is speeded up, thereby solving the problem of the accumulation of undecomposed substances in the fluidized-bed. However, fluctuations in the feeding rate of wastes result in fluctuations in the amount of generated gas which would impair the operation of a subsequent swirling-type high-temperature combustor. This is because it is impossible to finely adjust the amount of gas supplied to the swirling-type high-temperature combustor in accordance with the amount of oxygen containing gas generated in the fluidized-bed reactor. Therefore, an upper limit for the temperature in the fluidized-bed is set to 650°C so that the pyrolysis reaction is

relatively sluggish. The fluidized-bed reactor has a larger diameter portion above the fluidized-bed which is called "freeboard". By supplying oxygen containing gas such as substantially pure oxygen or oxygen enriched air to the freeboard, the load in the subsequent high-temperature combustor can be reduced, and gasification of tar and char in the generated gas can be accelerated in the freeboard.

According to the present invention, a primary combustion of the wastes is carried out in the fluidized-bed at a temperature ranging from 450 to 650°C, and then a secondary combustion of the wastes is carried out in the freeboard at a temperature ranging from 600 to 800°C, preferably ranging from 650 to 750°C.

The fluidizing gas supplied to the fluidized-bed reactor for gasifying the wastes is selected from air, oxygen enriched air, a mixture of air and steam, a mixture of oxygen enriched air and steam, and a mixture of oxygen and steam. As a fluidized medium, sand such as silica sand or Olivine sand, alumina, iron powder, limestone, dolomite, or the like may be used.

The gases generated in the fluidized-bed reactor contain a large amount of tar and carbonous materials. The carbonous materials are crushed into powdery char in the fluidized-bed, and the powdery char and gases are introduced into the swirling-type high-temperature combustor. Since the fluidized-bed is in a reducing atmosphere, metals in the wastes can be discharged in a non-corroded condition from the fluidized-bed reactor.

The metals which can be recovered are limited to those whose melting points are lower than the gasification temperature. Therefore, in order to recover aluminum having a melting point of 660°C, it is necessary to set the temperature
5 in the fluidized-bed to 650°C or less.

Next, the reason why the fluidized-bed in the fluidized-bed reactor is kept at a temperature ranging from 450 to 650°C will be described below.

FIG. 4 shows the characteristics of pyrolysis in a
10 nitrogen atmosphere of RDF. In a primary gasification process carried out in the fluidized-bed reactor, it is desirable to generate gaseous components including gas and tar as much as possible and solid components including combustible materials and ash content, that is carbonous materials, as little as
15 possible. Char which is generated from carbonous materials in the fluidized-bed reactor and has a small diameter, is conveyed to the high-temperature combustor with an upward flow of the generated gas in the fluidized-bed reactor, but carbonous materials having a large diameter which have not been crushed
20 well in the fluidized-bed are discharged with incombustibles from the bottom of the reactor.

If the rate of the carbonous materials is high, then the amount of the carbonous materials discharged from the bottom of the reactor must be increased to prevent the solid components
25 from being accumulated in the fluidized-bed. Char discharged from the reactor is reused after removing sand and incombustibles therefrom, but it is desirable to reduce the amount of char discharged from the reactor.

As shown in FIG. 4, as the temperature of thermal decomposition decreases, the amount of the generated solid components increases. Further, the speed of thermal decomposition becomes extremely slow at a temperature of 450°C or less, and undecomposed materials tend to be accumulated on the fluidized-bed, and hence operation of the fluidized-bed reactor becomes difficult. Conversely, as the temperature in the fluidized-bed increases, the amount of the generated solid component decreases, thus accelerating pyrolysis of the wastes.

However, since the wastes are supplied to the fluidized-bed reactor in almost non-crushed condition, if possible, reaction velocity increases when the fluidized-bed temperature rises excessively. Therefore, fluctuations in the supplied rate of wastes result in fluctuations in the rate of generated gas and internal pressure of the furnace which would impair the operation of a subsequent high-temperature combustor. It is confirmed by the experiments of gasification using shredder dust of automobile wastes that if gasification temperature is 650°C or less, CO content in the exhaust gas is suppressed to 10 ppm or less. Most of the wastes contain metals, and it is important to recover metals in the wastes in a non-corroded condition suitable for recycling. Among metals, recovery of aluminum is important, and in order to recover aluminum having a melting point of 660°C, it is necessary to set the temperature in the fluidized-bed to 650°C or less.

Inasmuch as the fluidized-bed reactor is used to gasify wastes at a relatively low temperature, it is possible to treat various wastes having a size in the range of several

millimeters to several centimeters. The fluidized-bed reactor has a high capacity and scale-up can be done easily. The fluidized-bed reactor is free of moving parts so that it can easily be operated for adjustment of the temperature and other
5 parameters, and has good thermal conductivity for a heating medium to keep the temperature of the fluidized-bed uniform.

If the fluidized-bed reactor comprises a revolving flow-type fluidized-bed reactor, the wastes do not need to be crushed before being charged into the fluidized-bed reactor.

10 The carbonous materials are effectively crushed in the fluidized-bed into char which is well dispersed in the fluidized-bed, and thus the fluidized-bed reactor has a high capacity of the wastes, can keep temperature in the fluidized-bed uniform, and has a high gasification efficiency.

15 Next, a high-temperature combustor will be described below. The high-temperature combustor is supplied with gaseous material and char introduced from the fluidized-bed reactor, and gasifies the gaseous material and char at a temperature of 1300°C or higher by being contacted with gas supplied to the
20 high-temperature combustor. Tar and char are fully gasified, and ash content therein is discharged as molten slag from the bottom of the high-temperature combustor.

The high-temperature combustor may comprise a Texaco furnace in which gaseous material and char are blown therein
25 only from an upper part of the furnace, but may preferably comprise a swirling-type high-temperature combustor. In the swirling-type high-temperature combustor, gaseous material and char are gasified at a relatively high temperature while

forming a swirling flow with gas for gasification, and ash content is melted, and then molten ash is separated and discharged therefrom.

By using the swirling-type high-temperature combustor, high load combustion and high speed combustion can be performed, distribution of the residence time of gas becomes narrow, a carbon conversion efficiency and a slag mist collecting efficiency are high, and the volume of the combustor may be small.

The gas introduced into the high-temperature combustor for gasification may be selected from oxygen enriched air and oxygen. The total amount of oxygen supplied to the fluidized-bed reactor and the high-temperature combustor may be in the range of 0.1 to 0.6 of the theoretical amount of oxygen for combustion of the wastes. The amount of oxygen supplied to the fluidized-bed reactor may be in the range of 0.1 to 0.3 of the theoretical amount of oxygen for combustion of the wastes. In this manner, fuel gas having a low calorie ranging from 1000 to 1500 kcal/Nm³ (dry) or fuel gas having a medium calorie ranging from 2500 to 4500 kcal/Nm³ (dry) can be obtained from the high-temperature combustor. According to the present invention, gas containing CO and H₂ as main component can be produced from the wastes, and the produced gas can be used as industrial fuel gas or synthesis for chemical industry.

Since ash content in char which is introduced into the subsequent high-temperature combustor from the fluidized-bed reactor is melted into slag in the high-temperature combustor, harmful heavy metals are fixed in the slag and will not be

eluted out. Dioxins and precursor thereof, and PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) are almost fully decomposed by the high-temperature combustion in the high-temperature combustor.

Generally, in case of producing synthesis gas for use as synthesis for chemical industry, gasification is carried out under a pressure ranging from 10 to 40 atm. However, gasification may be carried out under atmospheric pressure, and refinement of the generated gas may be carried out under a pressure ranging from 30 to 40 atm after a CO conversion. As a gasifying agent used in the fluidized-bed reactor, a mixture of pure oxygen (O_2) obtained by low-temperature separation of air and steam is generally used, but CO_2 recovered by an acid gas removing process may be added to O_2 . Nitrogen obtained by low-temperature separation of air is used in synthesis of ammonia (NH_3). Alternatively, oxygen enriched air may be used as a gasifying agent. By adjusting oxygen concentration so that the ratio of H_2 to N_2 is 3 : 1 after the CO conversion, it is possible to use the produced gas as synthesis gas of ammonia as they are. However, this method has disadvantages that flow rate of gas increases, resulting in a large-sized gas treatment equipment.

In case of using wastes as synthesis gas of ammonia, it is necessary to ensure the amount of waste and to make the quality of the wastes stable. Further, it is necessary to deal with change in the quality of the wastes during operation of the system.

In order to solve the above problems, according to the present invention, when the system cannot be operated stably

only by using the wastes or the system is in start-up, solid fuel such as coal or oil coke having a high calorie and a stable property which is actually used for producing H_2 may be added to the wastes. That is, by adding coal or oil coke to the wastes so that it is contained in the wastes at a rate of 20 to 40%, materials for gasification can be made stable both in quality and in quantity. When the quality of the wastes is lowered due to some cause during operation, and the concentration of H_2 or CO in the gas is lowered, the property of gas can be made stable by increasing a supply rate of the solid fuel. Incidentally, coal used in the system is not low-grade coal which belongs to the wastes but a sub-bituminous coal or bituminous coal having high degrees of coalification.

Various apparatuses for carrying out the method for treating wastes by gasification according to the present invention will be described below with reference to drawings.

FIG. 1 schematically shows an apparatus for carrying out the method for treating wastes by gasification according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

The apparatus shown in FIG. 1 includes a hopper 1, a screw feeder 2, and a revolving flow-type fluidized-bed reactor 3 having a fluidized-bed 4 therein. The fluidized-bed reactor 3 has a freeboard 5 and a burner 6, and is connected to a trommel 7 which is associated with a bucket conveyor 8. The apparatus further includes a swirling-type high-temperature combustor 9 having a primary combustion chamber 10, a secondary combustion chamber 8 and a slag separation chamber 12. The swirling-type high-temperature combustor 9 has burners 13. In FIG. 1, the

symbols a, b', b" and c represent organic wastes, air for the fluidized-bed 4, air for the freeboard 5, air for the high-temperature combustor 9, and large-sized incombustibles, respectively. Further, the symbols d, e, e' and f represent 5 silica sand, generated gas, combustion exhaust gas, and slag, respectively.

Wastes "a" are supplied to the hopper 1, and then supplied at a constant rate by the screw feeder 2 to the fluidized-bed reactor 3. Air "b" is introduced as a gasifying agent into the 10 fluidized-bed reactor 3 from a bottom thereof, forming a fluidized-bed 4 of the fluidized medium made of silica sand over a dispersion plate in the fluidized-bed reactor 3.

The fluidizing gas having a relatively low fluidizing gas velocity is supplied into the central part of the fluidized-bed 15 4, and the fluidizing gas having a relatively high fluidizing gas velocity is supplied into the peripheral part of the fluidized-bed 4, thus forming revolving flows of the fluidized medium in the fluidized-bed reactor 4 as shown in FIG. 1.

The organic wastes "a" are charged into the fluidized-bed 20 4, contacted with O₂ in the air within the fluidized-bed 4 which is kept at a temperature ranging from 450 to 650°C, and quickly pyrolyzed. The fluidized medium in the fluidized-bed 4 and incombustibles are discharged from the bottom of the fluidized-bed reactor 3 and enter the trommel 7 by which the 25 incombustibles "c" are removed. The separated silica sand "d" is charged back through the bucket conveyor 8 into the fluidized-bed reactor 3 from an upper end thereof. The

discharged incombustibles "c" contain metals. Since the fluidized-bed 4 is kept at a temperature ranging from 450°C to 650°C, iron, copper and aluminum can be recovered in a non-corroded condition suitable for recycling.

5 When the wastes "a" are gasified in the fluidized-bed 4, gas, tar and carbonous materials are generated. The gas and tar are atomized and ascend in the fluidized-bed reactor 3. The carbonous materials are pulverized into char by a stirring action of the fluidized-bed 4. Since the char is porous and
10 light, it is carried with the upward flow of the generated gas. Since the fluidized medium of the fluidized-bed 3 comprises hard silica sand, the pulverization of the carbonous materials is accelerated. Air "b'" is blown into the freeboard 5 to gasify the gas, tar, and char at a temperature ranging from
15 600°C to 800°C for thereby accelerating conversion of gas components into low molecular components and gasification of tar and char.

The generated gas "e" discharged from the fluidized-bed reactor 3 is supplied into the primary combustion chamber 10 of
20 the swirling-type high-temperature combustor 9, and combusted at a high temperature 1300°C or higher while being mixed with preheated air "b'" in a swirling flow thereof. The combustion is completed in the secondary combustion chamber 11, and the generated exhaust gas "e'" is discharged from the slag
25 separation chamber 12. Because of the high temperature in the swirling-type high-temperature combustor 9, ash content in the char is converted into slag mist which is trapped by molten

slag phase on an inner wall of the primary combustion chamber 10 under the centrifugal forces of the swirling flow. The molten slag flows down on the inner wall and enters the secondary combustion chamber 11, from which slag "f" is 5 discharged through a bottom of the slag separation chamber 12. The primary and secondary combustion chambers 10 and 11 are provided with the respective burners 13 for start-up. In this manner, combustion is carried out at an air ratio of about 1.3, and melting of ash content and forming of slag thereof are 10 carried out.

FIG. 2 shows an apparatus for carrying out the method for treating wastes by gasification according to a second embodiment of the present invention.

The apparatus shown in FIG. 2 serves to produce synthesis 15 gas having a high pressure ranging from 10 to 40 atm.

The apparatus comprises a revolving flow-type fluidized-bed reactor 3 and a swirling-type high-temperature combustor 17. The fluidized-bed reactor 3 is connected to a rock hopper 14 which is associated with a screen 15. The swirling-type 20 high-temperature combustor 17 is also connected to a rock hopper 14' which is associated with a screen 15'. The screen 15 is connected to the fluidized-bed reactor 3 through a fluidized medium circulation line 16. The swirling-type high-temperature combustor 17 has a high-temperature gasification 25 chamber 18 and a quenching chamber 19 therein. The swirling-type high-temperature combustor 17 is connected to a cyclone 20 which is connected to a scrubber 21. A settler 22 which is associated with the high-temperature combustor 17 is provided.

In FIG. 2, "a'" represents coal or oil coke for supplementary fuel, "g" and "g'" represent a mixture of O₂ and H₂O as a gasifying agent, and "g'" represents O₂ as a gasifying agent.

Wastes "a" are supplied at a constant rate through a rock
5 hopper or the like to the fluidized-bed reactor 3. A mixture of O₂ and H₂O is introduced as a gasifying agent "g" into the fluidized-bed reactor 3 from a bottom thereof, forming a fluidized-bed 4 of the fluidized medium made of silica sand over a dispersion plate in the fluidized-bed reactor 3. The
10 wastes "a" are charged into the fluidized-bed 4 and contacted with the gasifying agent "g" within the fluidized-bed 4 which is kept at a temperature ranging from 450 to 650°C and under a pressure ranging from 10 to 40 atom, and are rapidly pyrolyzed. The fluidized medium in the fluidized-bed 4 and incombustibles
15 are discharged from the bottom of the fluidized-bed reactor 3, pass through the rock hopper 14, and then are supplied to the screen 15 by which the incombustibles "c" are separated. The silica sand "d" is charged back through the fluidized medium circulation line 16 into the fluidized-bed reactor 3. The
20 discharged incombustibles "c" contain metals. Since the fluidized-bed 4 is kept at a temperature ranging from 450 to 650°C, iron, copper and aluminum can be recovered in a non-corroded condition suitable for recycling.

When the wastes "a" are gasified in the fluidized-bed 4,
25 gas, tar and carbonous materials are generated. The gas and tar are vaporized and ascend in the fluidized-bed reactor 3.

The carbonous materials are pulverized into char by a vigorous revolving action of the fluidized-bed 4. Since the char is porous and light, it is carried with the upward flow of the generated gas. Since the fluidized medium of the fluidized-bed 5 4 comprises hard silica sand, the pulverization of the carbonous materials is accelerated. A gasifying agent "g'" comprising a mixture of O_2 and H_2O is blown into the freeboard 5 to gasify the gas, tar and char at a temperature ranging from 600 to $800^{\circ}C$ for thereby accelerating conversion of gas 10 components into low-molecular components and gasification of tar and char.

The generated gas "e'" discharged from the fluidized-bed reactor 3 is supplied into the high-temperature gasification chamber 18 of the swirling-type high-temperature combustor 17, 15 and combusted at a high temperature $1300^{\circ}C$ or higher while being mixed with preheated gasifying agent "g'" in a swirling flow thereof. Because of the high temperature in the swirling-type high-temperature combustor 17, ash content in the gas is converted into slag mist which enters the quenching chamber 19 20 with the gas to be contacted with water directly. In the quenching chamber 19, the slag is quenched into granulated slag, and the granulated slag is discharged through the rock hopper 14' to the outside of the high-temperature combustor 17, and then classified into course grain slag "f'" and fine grain 25 slag "f'" by the screen 15'.

The generated gas is discharged from the high-temperature combustor 17, and supplied to the scrubber 21 through the

cyclone 20. In the scrubber 21, the gas is scrubbed to thus produce refined gas.

FIG. 3 is a flow diagram showing a process for synthesizing ammonia (NH_3) from organic wastes according to an embodiment of the present invention.

As shown in FIG. 3, the process comprises a step 100 of gasification, a step 200 of carbon monoxide conversion, a step 300 of removing acidic gas, a step 400 of gas refining with liquid nitrogen, a step 500 of synthesizing ammonia, and a step 600 of recovering sulfur. An apparatus for carrying out the above process includes a gas scrubber 21, a low-temperature air separator 23, a fluidized-bed reactor 3 for carrying out a primary gasification of organic wastes, a high-temperature combustor 17 for carrying out a secondary gasification at a relatively high temperature, a carbon monoxide converter 36, an absorption tower 40, a condensate tank 41, a carbon dioxide stripping tower 44, a hydrogen sulfide stripping tower 50, an adsorption tower 53, a liquid nitrogen cleaning tower 56, and a cooler 57. The apparatus further includes a compressor 58 for compressing gaseous nitrogen, a compressor 59 for compressing gaseous oxygen, a compressor 60 for compressing synthesis gas, an ammonia synthesis tower 62, an ammonia refrigerator 68, an ammonia separator 70, and an ammonia storage tank 72. The apparatus further includes heat exchangers 38, 39, 48, 52, 64 and 66, and pumps 30, 46 and 54. In FIG. 3, the symbols i, j, q and r represent air, oxygen (O_2), sulfur (S) and ammonium sulfite, respectively.

Air "i" is separated into oxygen "j" and nitrogen "k" by

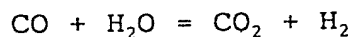
the air separator 23. The separated oxygen is compressed by the compressor 59, and supplied to the fluidized-bed reactor 3 and the high-temperature combustor 17 as a gasifying agent. The nitrogen "k" is compressed by the compressor 58, and used as gas for synthesis of ammonia. A low-temperature separation method is generally used for separating air.

In the gasification step 100, organic wastes "a" and a supplementary material "a'" are treated at a relatively low temperature in the fluidized-bed reactor 3, and then treated in the high-temperature combustor 17 at a temperature ranging from 1200 to 1500°C and under a pressure ranging from 10 to 40kg/cm² G to generate gas containing CO, H₂, H₂O and CO as main components. The temperature in the high-temperature combustor 17 is mainly adjusted by controlling the amount of oxygen. The high-temperature combustor 17 is of a direct-quench system, and has a high-temperature gasification chamber 18 at an upper part thereof and a quenching chamber 19 at a lower part thereof. The generated gas is quenched in direct contact with a water in the quenching chamber 19, and then discharged from the high-temperature combustor 17. By this quenching, a large amount of steam is generated, the generated steam flows with the generated gas, and most of slag generated in the high-temperature gasification chamber 18 is removed. The slurry of the slag and water is supplied to a slag treatment process. The generated gas, which is accompanied by the large amount of steam when being discharged from the quenching chamber 19, is cleaned in a venturi scrubber (not shown) and the gas scrubber 21 to remove the slag mist therefrom. Thereafter, the

generated gas is supplied to the step 200 of carbon monoxide conversion. The scrubbing water in the bottom of the gas scrubber 21 is mainly supplied to the quenching chamber 19 by the pump 30 for circulation, and the part of the scrubbing
5 water is supplied to the slag treatment process.

In the step 200 of carbon monoxide conversion, the generated gas containing steam and supplied from the step 100 of gasification is used as synthesis gas. The gas from the gas scrubber 21 is heated by the heat exchange with a gas passing
10 through a first-stage catalyst bed to a temperature suitable for the carbon monoxide conversion in the heat exchanger 38, and then supplied to the carbon monoxide converter 36. In the carbon monoxide converter 36, carbon monoxide (CO) in the gas reacts with the accompanied steam in the presence of carbon
15 monoxide conversion catalyst to produce hydrogen (H₂). The carbon monoxide converter 36 comprises two-stage catalyst beds composed of Co-Mo catalyst. The temperature at an inlet of the first-stage catalyst bed is approximately 300°C. The molar ratio of steam to dry generated gas is approximately 1.5. The
20 temperature at an exit of the first-stage catalyst bed is not allowed to exceed 480°C.

The temperature at an inlet of the second-stage catalyst bed is approximately 300°C. The conversion ratio is 90% or more, and the concentration of carbon monoxide in the dry gas
25 at the exit of the carbon monoxide converter 36 is 2% or less. The carbon monoxide conversion reaction is expressed by the following formula:



This reaction is exothermic reaction, and the high-temperature gas passing through the first-stage catalyst bed is cooled by the heat exchange with a gas from the inlet of the carbon monoxide converter 36, and then enters the second-stage catalyst bed. In the second-stage catalyst bed, the carbon monoxide conversion reaction proceeds furthermore.

The gas passing through the carbon monoxide converter 36 is cooled by the heat exchanger 39 to approximately 40°C, and separated in the condensate tank 41 into condensed water and gas, and then cooled to -17° by the heat exchange with a part of purified gas from the top of the nitrogen cleaning tower 56. Thereafter, the cooled gas is supplied to the step 300 of removing acidic gas in which a physical adsorption process, i.e. Rectisol process, is carried out to remove impurities including hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), carbonyl sulfide (COS) and carbon dioxide (CO₂), from the converted gas supplied from the step 200 of carbon monoxide conversion.

The gas cooled to -17°C is introduced into the absorption tower 40 in which carbon dioxide (CO₂) is absorbed by being contacted with liquid methanol of approximately -60°C countercurrently. As a result, the gas discharged from the absorption tower 40 contains carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentration ranging from 10 to 20 ppm and hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) concentration of approximately 0.1 ppm. As methanol used as an absorption liquid absorbs carbon dioxide, the temperature of the methanol increases, and the absorption ability thereof is lowered. Therefore, the methanol is drawn from the absorption tower 40, cooled by coolant of ammonia and then returned to the

absorption tower 40.

Small amount of Hydrogen (H_2) and carbon monoxide (CO) in addition to carbon dioxide (CO_2) and hydrogen sulfide (H_2S) are dissolved in the methanol drawn from the absorption tower 40.

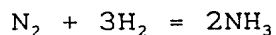
5 In order to recover hydrogen (H_2) and carbon monoxide (CO) from the methanol, the methanol is treated under reduced pressure in a methanol regeneration tower (not shown) to release hydrogen (H_2) and carbon monoxide (CO) therefrom. The released hydrogen and carbon monoxide are compressed by a compressor, and used
10 for recirculation. On the other hand, in order to recover carbon dioxide (CO_2) of high purity which is absorbed by the methanol, the methanol is supplied to the carbon dioxide stripping tower 44, and depressurized therein and stripped by gaseous nitrogen, whereby carbon dioxide (CO_2) in the methanol
15 is released and the released carbon dioxide is recovered.

The methanol containing condensed hydrogen sulfide (H_2S) is taken out from the bottom of the carbon dioxide stripping tower 44 and supplied to the heat exchanger 48 by the pump 46. After heated in the heat exchanger 48, the methanol is supplied
20 to the hydrogen sulfide stripping tower 50 in which it is indirectly regenerated by steam. Hydrogen sulfide enriched gas discharged from the top of the hydrogen sulfide stripping tower 50 is cooled in the heat exchanger 52, and then supplied to the step 600 of recovering sulfur in which sulfur "q" or ammonium
25 sulfite "r" is recovered. The methanol drawn from the bottom of the hydrogen sulfide stripping tower 50 is supplied to the top of the absorption tower 40 by the pump 54 for recirculation.

Hydrogen enriched gas supplied from the absorption tower 40 which contains a small amount of carbon monoxide (CO) and a trace amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) passes through the adsorption tower 53 to allow methanol and carbon dioxide to be removed therein, and is cooled to approximately -190°C by the cooler 57, and then supplied to the liquid nitrogen cleaning tower 56. In the step 400 of gas refining with liquid nitrogen, the supplied gas containing a trace amount of carbon monoxide (CO) and methane (CH₄) is cleaned with supercooled liquid nitrogen to thereby remove carbon monoxide and methane. Gaseous hydrogen is not absorbed by the liquid nitrogen because hydrogen has a lower boiling point than nitrogen. Therefore, purified hydrogen enriched gas containing nitrogen is obtained from the top of the nitrogen cleaning tower 56.

The purified gas discharged from the top of the liquid nitrogen cleaning tower 56 is mixed with gaseous nitrogen having high pressure which is generated from the liquid nitrogen cooled by the cooler 57 so that the molar ratio of hydrogen to nitrogen is adjusted to a suitable value, i.e., approximately 3 suitable for ammonia synthesis, and the mixed gas is heated through the cooler 57 again and supplied to the step 500 for synthesizing ammonia. A part of nitrogen gas compressed by the compressor 58 is cooled and liquefied by the cooler 57, and supplied to the nitrogen cleaning tower 56, in which the supplied nitrogen gas contacts with the gas supplied from the bottom of the nitrogen cleaning tower 56 countercurrently, and impurities including carbon monoxide (CO), argon (Ar) and methane (CH₄) in the supplied gas are

absorbed with liquid nitrogen, and removed. The liquid nitrogen which has absorbed the impurities such as carbon monoxide (CO), argon (Ar) and methane (CH₄) is drawn from the bottom of the nitrogen cleaning tower 56, and depressurized and used as a fuel for a boiler. The gas supplied from the cleaning step 400 is compressed to a pressure of, for example, 150 kg/cm²G in the first-stage of the compressor 60, and then the compressed gas is mixed with the recirculating gas from the ammonia separator 70. Thereafter, the mixed gas is compressed to a pressure of 165 kg/cm²G in the second-stage of the compressor 60, and then supplied to the ammonia synthesis tower 62. The ammonia synthesis tower has two-stage catalyst beds composed of Fe catalyst. The gas at an inlet of the ammonia synthesis tower 62 has a pressure of 164 kg/cm² and a temperature of 250°C. The ammonia synthesis reaction is carried out when the synthesis gas passes through the catalyst beds. The reaction is expressed by the following formula:



The gas which has passed through the catalyst beds has a temperature exceeding 500°C, however, it is cooled by the cooled gas introduced into the ammonia synthesis tower 62.

The ammonia discharged from the ammonia synthesis tower 62 has a pressure of 160 kg/cm²G and a temperature of 450°C. The ammonia is cooled to around room temperature by the heat exchangers 64 and 66, and further cooled by the ammonia refrigerator 68, thus most of ammonia is condensed. The condensed ammonia is separated into liquid ammonia and gas, and the liquid ammonia is fed to the ammonia storage tank 72. The

separated gas is supplied to the second-stage of the compressor 60 by which it is compressed to a pressure of 165 kg/cm²G, and then the compressed gas is supplied to the ammonia synthesis tower 62 for recirculation.

5 As described above, the method and apparatus for treating wastes by gasification according to the present invention offers the following advantages:

1. Hydrogen which is a material for ammonia (NH₃) can be produced from organic wastes which are available in our own
10 country. Thus, production cost of ammonia is greatly reduced.

2. By gasifying the organic wastes to produce hydrogen, various problems caused by conventional incineration treatment can be solved. To be more specific, the amount of exhaust gas is greatly reduced, and dioxins and precursor thereof are not
15 generated. Further, since ash content in the wastes is converted into harmless slag, a life of reclaimed land can be prolonged, and the recovered slag can be utilized as pavement materials.

3. Metals such as iron, copper or aluminum can be
20 recovered in a non-corroded condition suitable for recycling.

From the viewpoint of effective utilization of the wastes and environmental conservation, gasification facilities for gasifying organic wastes and ammonia synthesis facilities are constructed adjacently to each other, and combined organically
25 in respect to utilization of materials to enhance functions of both of facilities as a total system.

4. By supplying supplementary fuel such as coal or oil coke, it is possible to deal with fluctuations of the wastes both in quality and in quantity. Particularly, the

gasification facilities can be operated stably against deterioration in property of produced gas by increasing mixing ratio of the solid fuel.

Although certain preferred embodiments of the present
5 invention have been shown and described in detail, it should be understood that various changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for treating wastes, said apparatus comprising:

a fluidized bed reactor for partially combusting the wastes at a temperature of from 450°C to 650°C, thereby forming a gaseous material and carbonous material, while crushing the carbonous material by a fluidized bed in said fluidized bed reactor to thereby form char, said fluidized bed reactor having an outlet for discharge of the gaseous material and the char;

a combustor, separate from said fluidized bed reactor and operable at a temperature sufficient to melt an ash content of the char, for receiving the gaseous material and the char from said outlet of said fluidized bed reactor and for gasifying the gaseous material and the char to form synthesis gas, while melting the ash content to thereby form molten slag, said combustor having an outlet for discharge of the molten slag;

a cooler to cool the synthesis gas to from cooled synthesis gas;

a CO converter to receive the cooled synthesis gas and to perform a CO conversion reaction to produce H₂ and CO₂; and

a separator to separate said H₂ from the CO₂.

2. An apparatus claimed in claim 1, wherein said further comprising fluidized bed reactor is operable to form a revolving flow of fluidized medium in such a manner that the fluidized medium descends in a first region of said fluidized bed reactor, ascends in a second region of said fluidized bed reactor, moves from said first region toward said second region in a lower portion of said fluidized bed reactor, and moves from said second region toward said first region in an upper portion of said fluidized bed reactor.

3. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said combustor is operable to form the gaseous material and char into a swirling flow in said combustor.

4. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising structure to introduce oxygen-containing gas and steam as a gasifying agent into at least one of said fluidized bed reactor and said combustor.

5. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a separator to separate air into oxygen and nitrogen.

6. An apparatus as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a line to pass the oxygen as a gasifying agent to at least one of said fluidized bed reactor and said combustor.

7. An apparatus as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a synthesizer to combine the nitrogen with the H_2 for synthesis of ammonia.

8. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a supply of oxygen enriched air as a gasifying agent to at least one of said fluidized bed reactor and said combustor.

9. An apparatus claimed in claim 8, further comprising a control of the oxygen concentration of the oxygen enriched air so that a ratio of hydrogen gas to nitrogen gas obtained after the CO conversion reaction is 3:1.

10. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a supply of oxygen-containing gas as a gasifying agent to said fluidized bed reactor and said combustor, such that oxygen concentration of the oxygen-containing gas is controlled to be from 0.1 to 0.6 of the theoretical amount of oxygen required for combustion of the wastes.

11. An apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said supply is operable such that the oxygen concentration of the oxygen-containing gas introduced into said fluidized bed reactor is controlled to be from 0.1 to 0.3 of the theoretical amount of oxygen required for combustion of the wastes.

12. An apparatus as claimed in claim 13, further comprising at least one of sand, alumina, limestone and dolomite as a fluidized medium of said fluidized bed reactor.

13. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the partial combusting in said fluidized bed reactor is achieved by primary and secondary combustions, and the gasifying in said combustor is achieved by a tertiary combustion.

14. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, operable at a pressure of 10 to 40 atmospheres.

15. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, operable at a pressure of 30 to 40 atmospheres.

16. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said temperature sufficient to melt said ash content of said char is at least 1300°C, and wherein said cooler comprises a quencher for removing the molten slag from said combustor and quenching the synthesis gas and molten slag by introducing the synthesis gas and molten slag directly into a liquid bath in a quenching chamber of said quencher.

17. An apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said combustor includes a gasifying chamber and quenching chamber, the gasifying the gaseous material and the char is conducted in said gasifying chamber, and the quenching is conducted in said quenching chamber.

18. An apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein the quenching generates steam.

19. An apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said fluidized bed reactor is operable to form a revolving flow of fluidized medium in such a manner that the fluidized medium descends in a first region of said fluidized bed reactor, ascends in a second region of said fluidized bed reactor, moves from said first region toward said second region in a lower portion of said fluidized bed reactor, and moves from said second region toward said first region in an upper portion of said fluidized bed reactor.

20. An apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said combustor is operable to form the gaseous material and char into a swirling flow.

21. An apparatus as claimed in claim 16, further comprising structure to introducing oxygen-containing gas and steam as a gasifying agent into at least one of said fluidized bed reactor and said combustor.

22. An apparatus as claimed in claim 16, further comprising a separator to separate air into oxygen and nitrogen.

23. An apparatus as claimed in claim 22, further comprising a line to pass oxygen as a gasifying agent to at least one of said fluidized bed reactor and said combustor.

24. An apparatus as claimed in claim 22, further comprising a synthesizer to combine the nitrogen with the H_2 for synthesis of ammonia.

25. An apparatus as claimed in claim 16, further comprising a supply of oxygen enriched air as a gasifying agent to at least one of said fluidized bed reactor and said combustor.

26. An apparatus as claimed in claim 25, further comprising a controlling of the oxygen concentration of the oxygen enriched air so that a ratio of hydrogen gas to nitrogen gas obtained after CO conversion reaction is 3:1.

27. An apparatus as claimed in claim 16, further comprising a supply of an oxygen-containing gas as a gasifying agent to said fluidized bed reactor and said combustor, such that oxygen concentration of the oxygen-containing gas is controlled to be from 0.1 to 0.6 of the theoretical amount of oxygen required for combustion of the wastes.

28. An apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein said supply is operable such that the

oxygen concentration of the oxygen-containing gas introduced into said fluidized bed reactor is controlled to be from 0.1 to 0.3 of the theoretical amount of oxygen required for combustion of the wastes.

29. An apparatus as claimed in claim 16, further comprising at least one material selected from the group consisting of sand, alumina, limestone and dolomite as a fluidized medium of said fluidized bed reactor.

30. An apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein the partial combusting in said fluidized bed reactor is achieved by primary and secondary combustions, and the gasifying in said combustor is achieved by a tertiary combustion.

31. An apparatus as claimed in claim 16, operable at a pressure of 10 to 40 atmospheres.

32. An apparatus as claimed in claim 16, operable at a pressure of 30 to 40 atmospheres.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus for treating wastes includes a fluidized bed reactor for partially combusting the wastes at a relatively low temperature, and a separate relatively high temperature reactor for separate gasification of gaseous material and char from the first gasification. This synthesis gas thus formed is cooled, subjected to a conversion operation in a converter to produce hydrogen.

FIG. 2

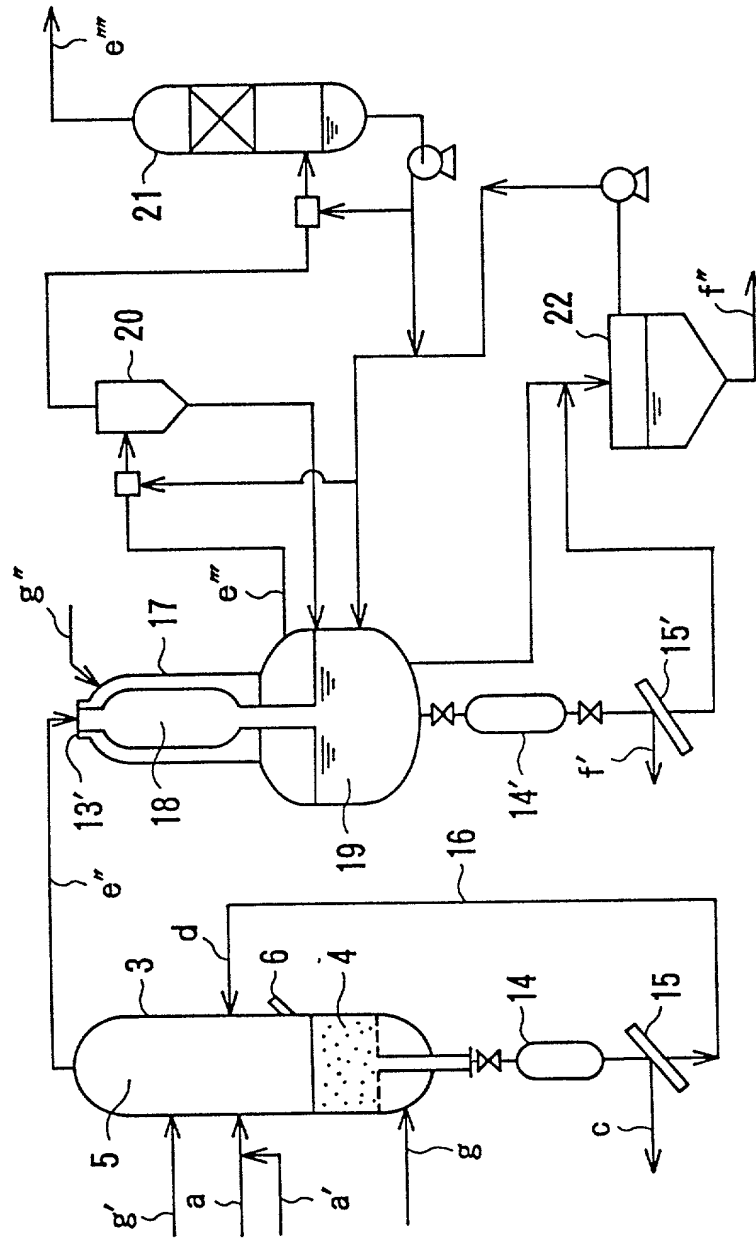


FIG. 3

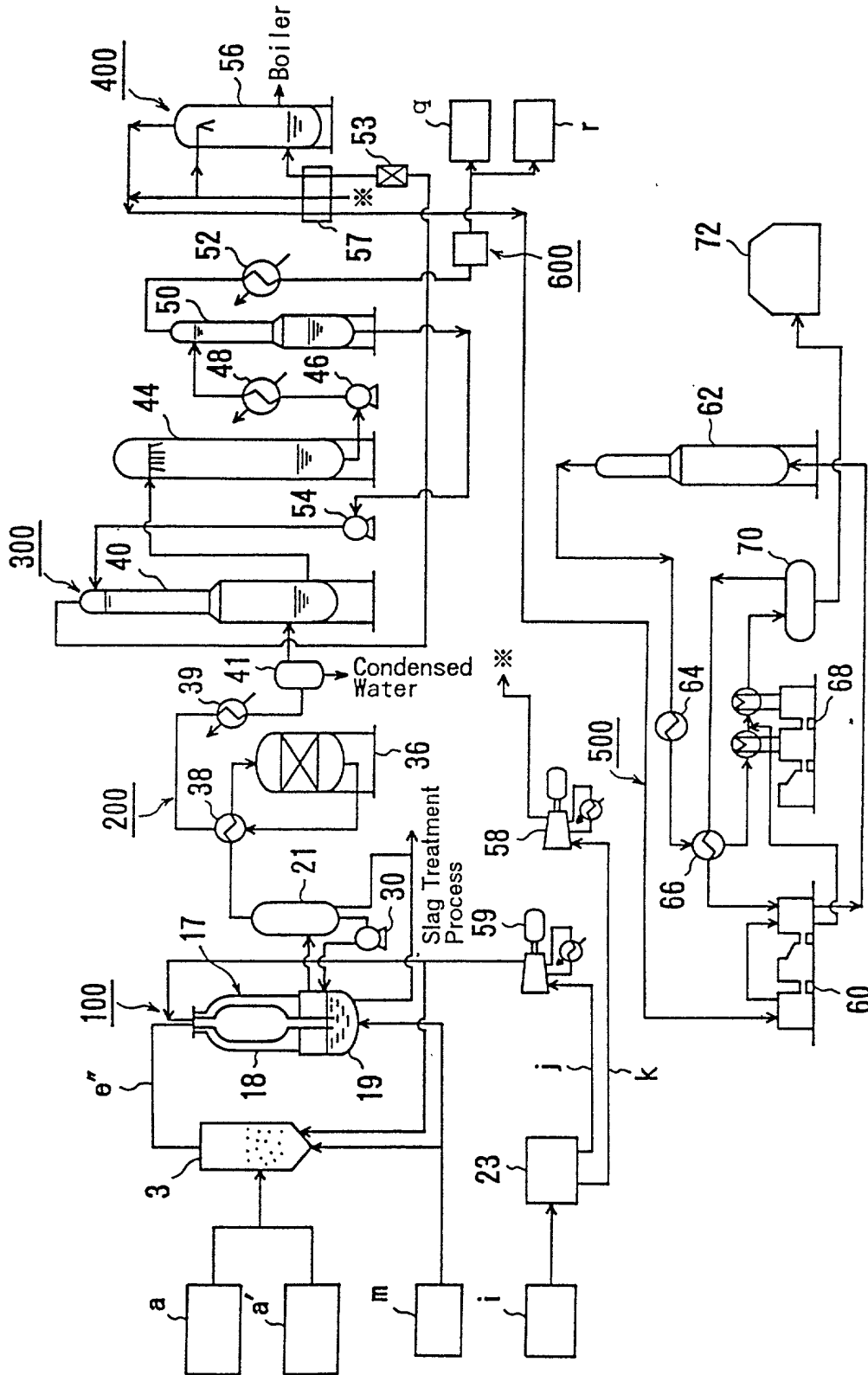
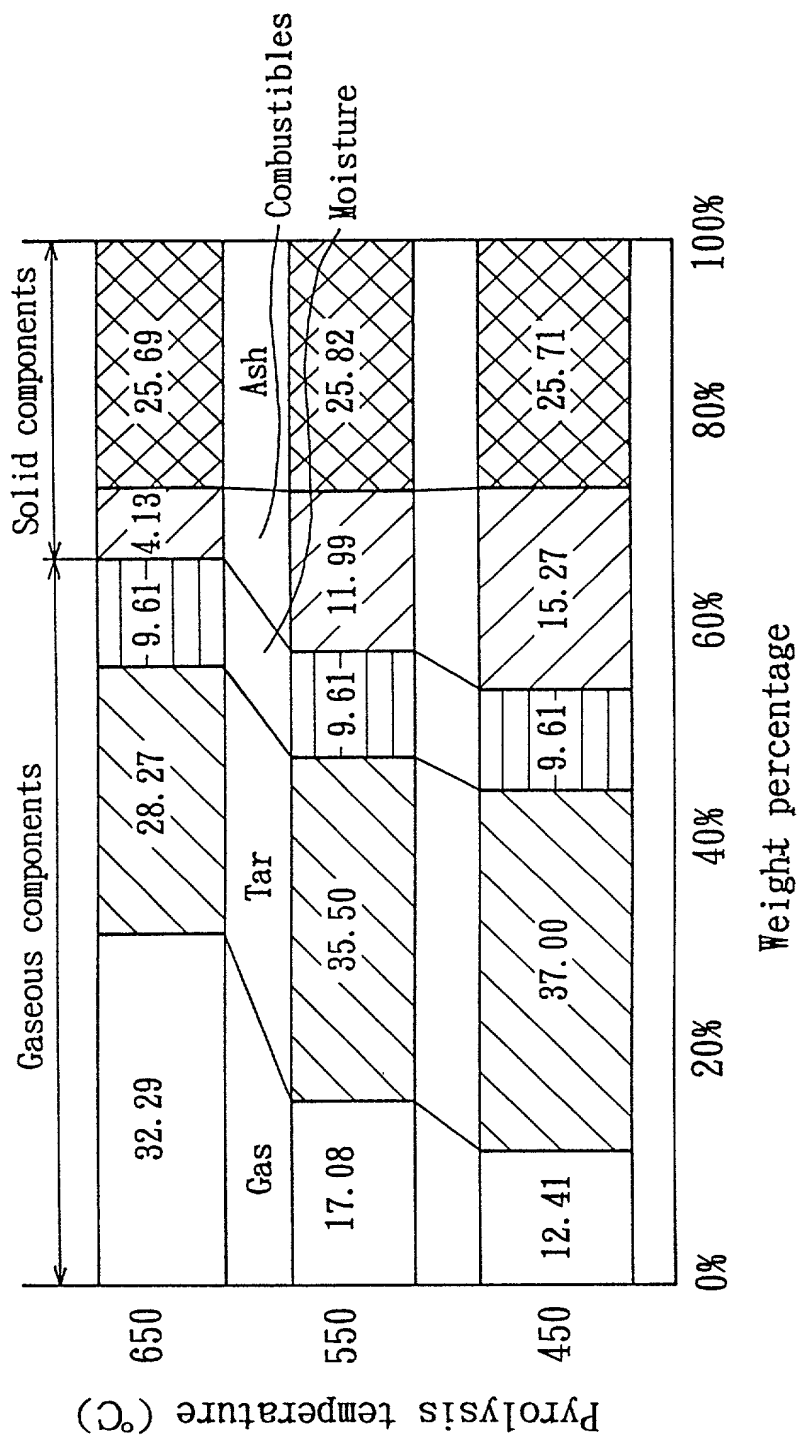


FIG. 4



DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR U.S. PATENT APPLICATION

☒ Original ☐ Supplemental ☐ Substitute ☐ PCT ☐ Design

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that I verily believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TREATING WASTES BY GASIFICATION

of which is described and claimed in:

- ☐ the attached specification, or
☒ the specification in the application Serial No. 08/757,452 filed November 27, 1996,
 and with amendments through _____ (if applicable), or
☐ the specification in International Application No. PCT/ _____, filed _____, and as amended
 on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the content of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment(s) referred to above.

I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 (and §172 if this application is for a Design) of any application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NO.	DATE OF FILING	PRIORITY CLAIMED
JAPAN	123938/1996	April 23, 1996	YES
JAPAN	202775/1996	July 15, 1996	YES
JAPAN	252263/1996	September 4, 1996	YES

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

APPLICATION SERIAL NO.	U.S. FILING DATE	STATUS: PATENTED, PENDING, ABANDONED

And I hereby appoint John T. Miller, Reg. No. 21,120; John T. Fedigan, Reg. No. 24,347; Michael R. Davis, Reg. No. 25,134; Matthew M. Jacob, Reg. No. 25,154; Jeffrey Nolton, Reg. No. 25,408; Warren M. Cheek, Jr., Reg. No. 33,367; Adam C. Volentine, Reg. No. 33,289; and Nils E. Pedersen, Reg. No. 33,145, who together constitute the firm of WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, jointly and severally, attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

I hereby authorize the U.S. attorneys named herein to accept and follow instructions from WATANABE & HOTTA as to any action to be taken in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. attorneys and myself. In the event of a change in the persons from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. attorneys named herein will be so notified by me.

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I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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The above application may be more particularly identified as follows:

U.S. Application Serial No. _____ Filing Date _____

Applicant Reference Number _____ Atty Docket No. _____

Title of Invention _____

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I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

8th 1st Inventor Kazuo Takano Date February 12, 1997
9th 2nd Inventor Toshio Fukuda Date February 12, 1997
3rd Inventor _____ Date _____
4th Inventor _____ Date _____
5th Inventor _____ Date _____
6th Inventor _____ Date _____
7th Inventor _____ Date _____

The above application may be more particularly identified as follows:

U.S. Application Serial No. _____ Filing Date _____
Applicant Reference Number _____ Atty Docket No. _____
Title of Invention _____